

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-5 and 13-14 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 13, and 14 are amended herein. New claims 15-20 are added herein.

Claims 1, 13, and 14 are amended to recite "from 45 to 90 wt% of a water soluble organic solvent". Support for this recitation is provided in the specification, for example, at page 3, lines 26-28, and the formulations in Table I. No new matter is being introduced in submitting this amendment.

New claims 15-20 are being added at the present time to cover particular aspects of Applicants' invention. It is submitted that the addition of new claims 15-20 will not require the Examiner to conduct an additional search because these claims cover subject matter that is similar to the claimed subject matter. Support for new claims 15 and 18 are provided in the specification, for example, at page 3, lines 30-31 through page 4, lines 1-5, and the formulations in Table I. Support for new claims 16-17 and 19-20 are provided in the specification, for example, at page 3, lines 26-28, and the formulations in Table I.

Applicants respectively traverse the rejections of pending claims 1, and claims 2-5 which depend therefrom, and 13-14 because the art of record, namely U. S. Pat Nos. 6,232,283 ("283 patent") and 4,199,483 ("483 patent"), does not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention. In particular, the art of record does not disclose every element and limitation recited in these claims 1, 13, and 14, in as complete detail as is contained in the claims and arranged as recited in the claim.

For a prior art reference to be anticipatory, MPEP § 2131 provides that: "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference." Further, the §102(b) reference "must sufficiently describe the claimed invention to have placed the public in possession of it...[and] even if the claimed invention is disclosed in a printed publication, that disclosure will not suffice as prior art if it was not enabling...." *Paperless Accounting, Inc. v. Bay Area Rapid Transit Systems*, 804 F.2d 659, 665, 321 USPQ 649, 653 (Fed. Cir. 1986); *Akzo N.V. v. U.S.I.T.C.*, 808 F.2d 1471, 1479 1 USPQ2d 1241, 1245 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

The '283 patent does not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention. The '283 patent teaches a liquid detergent composition containing 0.1 to 50 wt % of a mixture of specific glyceryl-ether compounds, 0.1 to 30 wt % of a surfactant, 0.01 to 30 wt % of a builder or an alkali agent and the remainder water. The '283 patent further teaches that the builder or alkaline agent may be monoethanol amine and/or malonic acid. Contrary to the

Examiner's assertion, however, the '283 patent does not disclose all of the required elements of Applicants' claimed invention, namely from 45 to 90% of a water soluble organic solvent. Further, there is no suggestion or motivation within the '283 patent to expand the amount of builder or alkaline agent within the composition beyond 30% by weight.

Similarly, Applicants' claimed invention is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by the '483 patent. The '483 patent teaches a heavy-duty liquid laundry detergent that contains from 20 to 75 wt % of a water soluble detergent surfactant. One particular example of an anionic organic surfactant that may be used in the composition is a linear C₉-C₁₅ alkylbenzene sulfonate (see the '483 patent at col. 6, lines 1-5). Yet another example is a surfactant system described as follows:

Especially preferred as a surfactant system is a mixture of a nonionic surfactant produced by the condensation of from about 5 moles to about 11 moles of ethylene oxide with one mole of a C₁₃ to C₁₆ alcohol, said nonionic surfactant being characterized by an HLB of from about 9.5 to about 15; and an anionic surfactant which is a mixture of an alkanolamine and an alkali metal salt of an alkylbenzene sulfonic acid where the alkyl group contains from about 9 to about 15 carbon atoms and wherein said alkanolamine is selected from the group consisting of mono-, di-, and triethanolamines and said alkali metal is selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, magnesium, and calcium. Even more preferably, the nonionic surfactant in the above-described surfactant system is a condensate of from about 6 to 9 moles of ethylene oxide with a C₁₄₋₁₅ alcohol and has an HLB within the range of 11 to 13, and the anionic surfactant is a mixture of the above-described alkanolamines and the alkali metal salts of a C₁₀₋₁₃ alkylbenzene sulfonic acid. See the '483 patent at col. 6, lines 27-46; see also claim 10.

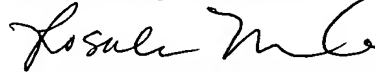
All of the examples provided in the '483 patent contain a water soluble surfactant that is a mixture containing 15.0 wt % C_{14 to 15} of a (EO) non-ionic surfactant, 30.2 wt % of an alkylbenzene sulfonic acid, and from 9.0 to 9.5 wt% of ethanol (assuming it is water soluble) and triethanolamine. The ranges for the sulfonic acid and water soluble organic solvent clearly fall outside of Applicants' claimed range. There is no discussion nor suggestion in the '483 patent to use a mixture of alkanolamine and an alkali metal salt of a C₉-C₁₅ alkylbenzene sulfonate without the addition of a nonionic surfactant having a certain number of moles of ethylene oxide. Further, the '483 teaches away from the corrosion inhibitors disclosed in Applicants' claim 12 because the '483 patent shows in Example II that the corrosion inhibitor benzotriazole caused rust to occur (see col. 9, lines 25-37).

SUMMARY

For at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned Attorney at the telephone number listed below. Charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment in the manner authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,



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